

# Kwanzaa

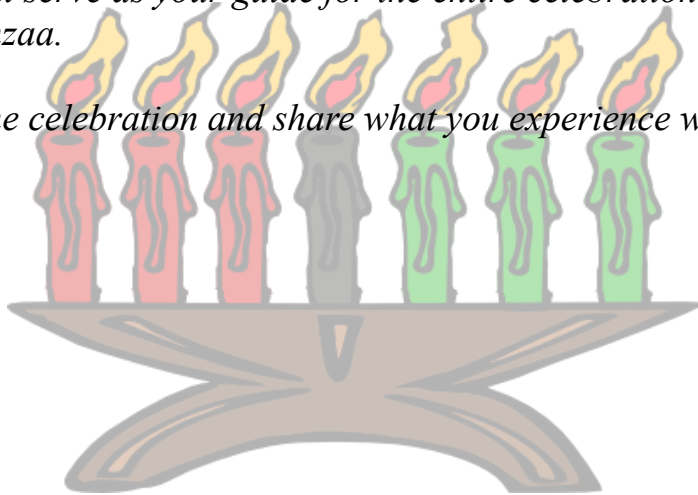
December 26 - January 1

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*Once again it is time for celebration. For seven days we celebrate the seven principals we know as the Nguzo Saba. Although we apply these principles throughout the year, we take time out during this time of the year to come together as a family and highlight each one of these principles. This book will serve as your guide for the entire celebration week of Kwanzaa.*

*Enjoy the celebration and share what you experience with others.*



## ABOUT KISWAHILI

**Swahili** (known in Swahili itself as *Kiswahili*) is a Bantu language spoken by various ethnic groups that inhabit several large stretches of the Indian Ocean coastline from northern Kenya to northern Mozambique, including the Comoros Islands. Although only 5–10 million people speak it as their native language, Swahili is a national, or official language, of four nations, namely Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Within the Congo, as in much of East Africa, it often acts as a lingua franca. It is the only language of historically African origin among the official working languages of the African Union.

## GREETINGS

**Hujambo** - Hello

Response: **SiJambo**

**Sasa / Mambo** (Informal Hello)

Responses: **Nzuri** (fine), **Safi** (clean / in order) , **Poa** (cool), **Poa kichizi** (cool like a crazy banana)

**Habari** - How are you?

**Habari za leo?** - How are you today?

**Habari za asubuhi?** - How are you this morning?

**Habari za mchana?** - How are you this afternoon?

**Habari za Jioni?** - How are you this evening?

**Jino lako nani?** - What is your name?

**Jina langu** \_\_\_\_\_ - My name is \_\_\_\_\_

**Tafadhali** (Please)

**Asante-Sana** - Thank you-very much

**Karibu** - Welcome

**Ndiyo** - Yes

**Hapana** - No

**Kwaheri** - Goodbye

**Usiku mwema** - Good night

## NIGHTLY PRINCIPLES AND HOSTS

**Night 1: Umoja**

Host: House of Bethel

Umoja means unity. We strive for and maintain unity in the family.

**Night 2: Kujichagulia**

Host: House of Antioch

Kujichagulia means self-determination. To define and defend ourselves, name ourselves for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of allowing others to do it!

**Night 3: Ujima**

Host:

Ujima means collective work and responsibility. To build and maintain active and informed togetherness on matters of common interests and importance.

**Night 4: Ujamaa**

Host: House of Canaan

Ujamaa means cooperative economics. To build and maintain the principle and practice of shared wealth and resources.

**Night 5: Nia**

Host: House of Damascus

Nia means purpose. To make our collective vocation the building and developing of community; become all that God desires us to be and leave an inexhaustible inheritance to our posterity.

**Night 6: Kuumba**

Host: House of Salem

Kuumba means creativity. We commit to always invest our gifts, skills, talents and time necessary to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

**Night 7: Imani**

Host: All Houses

Imani means faith. We believe in the omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence of the creating God who is just and righteous and a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

# SYMBOLS OF KWANZAA

## The Symbols of Kwanzaa

1. The **MKEKA** is the straw mat and is symbolic of our tradition and history and therefore, the foundation on which we build.
2. The **KINARA** is the Candlestick holder. This is symbolic of our roots, our parent people -- continental Africans.
3. The **MAZAO** are the crops. These are symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor.
4. The **MUHINDI** is the corn, it is symbolic of our children and our future which they embody.
5. The **KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA** is the Unity Cup. This is symbolic of the foundational principle and practice of unity which makes all else possible.
6. The **ZAWADI**, are gifts that are usually handmade and are symbolic of the labor and love of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children.
7. The **MISHUMAA SABA** are the seven candles. These are symbolic of the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, the matrix and minimum set of values which African people are urged to live by.

Each night we light the Umoja candle and use it to light the principle candle.

## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON KWANZAA

### Umoja (Unity)

John 6:51; John 17:11; Romans 11:12; Philippians 1:9, 2:1-2

### Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

Deuteronomy 10:12-13; 1 Kings 4-7; 2 Kings 1:13

### Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

Nehemiah 2:16-18; 1 Chronicles 26; Proverbs 24:12; Luke 12:42; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 13:8

### Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

2 Kings 12:17-16; Acts 2:44-47

### Nia (Purpose)

Genesis 24:12; Psalms 57:2; Malachi 2:5; Romans 9:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4

### Kuumba (Creativity)

Exodus 31, Exodus 23, 1 Corinthians 13:3, 14:25; 1 Peter 4:10

### Imani (Faith)

Matthew 15:28; Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:22;

## INTRODUCTIONS

**Greeter:** Habari za Jioni (*Good Evening.*)  
Hamjambo (*How are all of you?*)

**Community:** Hatujambo (*We are fine.*)

**Greeter:** Today we celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ which means  
\_\_\_\_\_ Habari Gani? (*What's the News?*)

**Community:** Habari \_\_\_\_\_ (*The News is \_\_\_\_\_*)

**Greeter:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari \_\_\_\_\_!

**Greeter:** To the elders of this great village - Shikamoo (*I touch your feet as a sign of respect.*)

**Elder(s):** Marahabaa (*I acknowledge your respect.*)  
(*Elder: one having authority by virtue of age and experience; any of various officers of religious groups i.e deacons, ministers, Pastors*)

**Greeter:** Please stand for our call to worship.

**Community:**

**Greeter:** Please pray the prayer that our Lord and Saviour taught us to pray.

**Community:**

## GENERAL PROGRAM

Occasion (Discuss the symbols of Kwanzaa)

Presentation of principle

Practice, demonstration of principle (An activity, illustration, etc.)

Offering

Prayer

Harambee

Dismiss

## ABOUT KWANZAA

**Kwanzaa** is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from 26 December thru 1 January, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

The first-fruits celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and Yorubaland. These celebrations are also found in ancient and modern times among societies as large as empires (the Zulu or kingdoms (Swaziland) or smaller societies and groups like the Matabele, Thonga and Lovedu, all of southeastern Africa.

Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruit" celebrations: ingathering; reverence; commemoration; recommitment; and celebration.

Rooted in this ancient history and culture, Kwanzaa develops as a flourishing branch of the African American life and struggle as a recreated and expanded ancient tradition. Thus, it bears special characteristics only an African American holiday but also a Pan-African one, For it draws from the cultures of various African peoples, and is celebrated by millions of Africans throughout the world African community. Moreover, these various African peoples celebrate Kwanzaa because it speaks not only to African Americans in a special way, but also to Africans as a whole, in its stress on history, values, family, community and culture.

Kwanzaa was established in 1966 in the midst of the Black Freedom Movement and thus reflects its concern for cultural grounded ness in thought and practice, and the unity and self-determination associated with this. It was conceived and established to serve several functions.

[www.officialkwanzaawebsite.com](http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.com)

# NGUZO SABA

SEVEN PRINCIPLES

# APPENDIX

**Facilitator:** How can we know our faith is effective?

**Community:** *Effective faith depends on God. Effective faith is more concerned its life than its size. Luke 17:5 - One day the apostles said to the Lord, "We need more faith; tell us how to get it." Effective faith rests on what Christ has done. Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Effective faith grows under pressure. Effective faith becomes stronger through endurance, Hebrews 10:38 - And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away." Romans 5:3-5; Romans 8:12-15; Galatians 3:10-13.*

**Facilitator:** Effective faith is hopeful anticipation.

**Community:** *Effective faith is quiet certainty. Hebrews 11:1; John 20:24-31 - What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. John 20:24-31 - But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life.*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Imani!

## UMOJA

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Umoja!

**Facilitator:** UMOJA is Unity.

**Community:** *We strive for and maintain UNITY in the family, community, nation and race.*

**Facilitator:** How does the bible describe the UNITY that should exist between Servant Warrior Leaders of high moral character?

**Community:** *Unity for the Servant warrior leader is based on each person's connection with Christ.*

**Facilitator:** Jesus' great desire for the servant warrior leader is that we become one. Philippians 2:4,5 says *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*

**Community:** *Servant warrior leader's are not intended to live out there faith in isolation.*

**Facilitator:** In Christ, unity has been made possible.

**Community:** *But it has not yet been fully achieved.*

**Facilitator:** The love commanded by Christ should create deep unity among Servant Warrior Leaders. Philippians 1:9 says "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge depth of insight."

**Community:** *Unity ought to be a distinctive mark among Servant Warrior Leaders. Philippians 2:1-2 says "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in Spirit and purpose.*

**Facilitator:** Why then do we begin with Unity?

**Community:** *Without unity we will be unable to accomplish anything.*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Umoja!

## KUJICHAGULIA

**Facilitator:** KUJICHAGULIA means self-determination

**Community:** *To define and defend ourselves, name ourselves for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of allowing others to do it!*

**Facilitator:** How then shall we define ourselves?

**Community:** *Our definition comes from God.*

**Facilitator:** Who does God say we are?

**Community:** *I am a Servant Warrior Leader of high moral character. I am not common. I am not dumb. I am not stupid. I am not slow. I am not a fool. I am not a loser. I will not be defeated. I have an eternal purpose for living. No one can be me but me. I will do great things. I will do the right thing, the right way, for the right reason, expecting the right results, to benefit others. I will succeed. I can do what I set my mind to do. I can do all things by faith. I can read and I will read better. I can write and I write better. I can do mathematics and I will improve. I can think. I am special. I am unique. I am beautifully and wonderfully made. I am precious. I am somebody. I am victorious. I am a servant warrior leader of high moral character. I am free.*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Kujichagulia!

## IMANI

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Imani!

**Facilitator:** IMANI means FAITH

**Community:** *We believe in the omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence of the creating God who is just and righteous and a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.*

**Facilitator:** How can we know our faith is ineffective?

**Community:** *Ineffective faith attempts to anticipate God's plan. Genesis 16:3. Ineffective faith is marked by a lack of trust in God. Exodus 14:10-11 - As Pharaoh and his army approached, the people of Israel could see them in the distance, marching toward them. The people began to panic, and they cried out to the LORD for help. Then they turned against Moses and complained, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? Why did you make us leave? Ineffective faith is marked by an unchanged life. Matthew 3:8 - Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God.*

**Facilitator:** Ineffective faith seldom goes beyond words. 1 Corinthians 4:19 - But I will come – and soon – if the Lord will let me, and then I'll find out whether these arrogant people are just big talkers or whether they really have God's power. How can we know our faith is weak?

**Community:** *Weak faith tends to lack endurance. Weak faith often falters. Matthew 14:28.*

**Facilitator:** Even weak faith is part of the process of belief. Luke 24:12 - However, Peter ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

**Community:** *Weak faith can become strong faith with God's help. Mark 9:24 - The father instantly replied, "I do believe, but help me not to doubt!" Those with weak faith need to recognize their limitations. Romans 14:1 - Accept Christians who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.*

**Community:** Everyone has special abilities. 1 Peter 4:10 - God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of *spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.*

**Facilitator:** The needs you see are opportunities to use your abilities.

**Community:** *Acts 6:3 says "Now look around among yourselves, brothers, and select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this business."*

**Facilitator:** How do individual choices affect our people?

**Community:** *Our actions affect others. Joshua 7:1, 11 - ". . . A man named Achan had stolen some of these things, so the LORD was very angry with the Israelites . . . " Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen the things that I commanded to be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them; they have also lied about it and hidden the things among their belongings. We must take personal responsibility for group error.*

**Facilitator:** Will there be any excuses when we stand before God?

**Community:** *No, We will appear before God. Romans 14:12 - Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God. 2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies.*

**Facilitator:** Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize what has been said.

**Community:** *When you meet, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in an unknown language, while another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 14:26)*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Kuumba!

UJIMA

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Ujima!

**Facilitator:** UJIMA is COLLECTIVE WORK and RESPONSIBILITY

**Community:** *To build and maintain active and informed togetherness on matters of common interest and importance.*

**Facilitator:** How is working together an important part of the Servant Warrior Leader's life?

**Community:** *Collective work is a vital part of life in the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.*

**Facilitator:** Collective work among Servant warrior Leaders requires everyone's contribution. Ephesians 4:12 says to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

**Community:** *Collective work is the product of genuine love for one another. Philippians 2:3-4 says Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

**Facilitator:** Collective work makes our individual effort go much farther. 1 Peter 2:4-5 says as you come to Him, the living stone - rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him - you also, like living stones, are built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. What principles does God give regarding our work?

**Community:** *God wants Servant Warrior Leaders to be characterized by diligence in their work. Genesis 31:42 says "If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night He rebuked you."*

**Facilitator:** God is the source of all our skills, and He wants us to use them to the best of our ability.

**Community:** *Our work, even if it isn't spiritual can still be done to God's glory, Exodus 36:1. God wants us to work hard and do our best, even with small and seemingly insignificant responsibilities, Ruth 2:7.*

**Facilitator:** Wherever we go and whatever we do, our work ought to leave behind an impression that we are seeking to serve God rather than just people.

**Community:** *God gives each Servant Warrior Leader an assignment. All our work should be Christ centered, Ephesians 6:6-7.*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Ujima!

## KUUMBA

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Kuumba!

**Facilitator:** **Habari KUUMBA!**

**Community:** *KUUMBA means CREATIVITY! We commit to always invest our gifts, skills, talents and time necessary to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.*

**Facilitator:** What does the bible say about our gifts, skills and talents?

**Community:** *Skills are gifts from God. Exodus 31:2-5: "Look, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, intelligence, and skill in all kinds of crafts. He is able to create beautiful objects from gold, silver and bronze. He is skilled in cutting and setting gemstones and in carving wood. Yes, he is a master at every craft!" 1 Corinthians 12:4: Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all.*

**Facilitator:** Creativity is to be enjoyed and appreciated, but never worshiped. The wisest of people who worship idols are stupid and foolish. The things they worship are made of wood!

**Community:** *God has given everyone special abilities. Exodus 23:3 - Instruct all those who have special skills as tailors to make the garments that will set Aaron apart from everyone else, so he may serve as a priest.*

**Facilitator:** What does God want us to do with the abilities he gives?

**Community:** *Have a proper attitude towards our abilities. 1 Corinthians 13:3: If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever.*

**Facilitator:** What if you don't think God has given you any special abilities?

*Our investments must be centered on the kingdom of God.  
Matthew 25:14. Giving is one of the best investments. 2  
Corinthians 9:11 - Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give  
even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those  
who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God.*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?  
**Community:** Nia!

## UJAMAA

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?  
**Community:** Habari Ujamaa!

**Facilitator:** UJAMAA means COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS  
**Community:** *To build and maintain the principle and practice  
of shared wealth and resources.*

**Facilitator:** How can wealth come between us and God?  
**Community:** *Wealth can become the center of our life and take  
God's place. Jeremiah 9:23-24 - This is what the LORD says:  
"Let not the wise man gloat in his wisdom, or the mighty man in  
his might, or the rich man in his riches. Let them boast in this  
alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the  
LORD who is just and righteous, whose love is unfailing, and  
that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!"*

**Facilitator:** Wealth can easily become an idol. Matthew  
19:21-22 - Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell  
all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have  
treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when the  
young man heard this, he went sadly away because he had  
many possessions.

**Community:** *Wealth can tempt us to deny our dependence on  
God. Mark 10:24-25 – This amazed them. But Jesus said again,  
"Dear children, it is very hard to get into the Kingdom of God It  
is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a  
rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"*

**Facilitator:** *What is true wealth?*

**Community:** *True wealth is far more than material rewards.  
True wealth is what we gain when we give up what we have, to  
follow Christ.*

**Facilitator:** True wealth is eternal. Matthew 19:27-28. Then  
Peter said to him, "We've given up everything to follow you.  
What will we get out of it?" And Jesus replied, "I assure you that  
when I, the Son of Man, sit upon my glorious throne in the  
Kingdom, you who have been my followers will also sit on  
twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Community:** *True wealth is opposite of the wealth that the world values. True wealth is part of heaven – earthly wealth is not. True wealth is freely given for God’s kingdom. True wealth cannot rust, be lost, or be stolen. True wealth is possessing a relationship with the king.*

**Facilitator:** Our concept of true wealth is defined by our focus. Luke 12:34 - Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

**Community:** *True wealth is having eternal life. John 8:12. Jesus said to the people, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”*

**Facilitator:** How are we to think of the resources we have?

**Community:** *Our resources are given to us by God. Our resources are to be used responsibly. Luke 12:48-“ . . . Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given. God will call us to account for our use of His resources. Luke 19:15-“When he returned, the king called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what they had done with the money and what their profits were.*

**Facilitator:** True wealth is measured in part by how we use material wealth to benefit others.

**Community:** *Acts 2:44-47 - And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.*

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Habari Ujamaa!

NIA

**Facilitator:** Habari Gani?

**Community:** Nia!

**Facilitator:** Nia means Purpose.

**Community:** *To make our collective vocation the building and developing of community; become all that God desires us to be and leave an inexhaustible inheritance to our posterity.*

**Facilitator:** How can we find purpose in our life?

**Community:** *We find purpose in obedience to God. Numbers 9:23 - So they camped or traveled at the Lord’s command, and they did whatever the LORD told them through Moses. We find purpose in trusting God. Proverbs 3:4-6; Matthew 6:33 - and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.*

**Facilitator:** We find purpose in becoming like Christ. 2

Thessalonians 1:11; Romans 8:29 - For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.

How does God measure our intentions?

**Community:** *God knows our real intentions. Numbers 14:40.*

*The intention to do evil is sin. Matthew 528 - But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Good intentions become reality with Christ’s help. Matthew 14:29-30 - “All right, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. God knows the real intentions of our heart. Matthew 21:31.*

**Facilitator:** What kinds of investments are pleasing to God?

**Community:** *The best investments are made with eternity in mind. Psalms 49:10 - Those who are wise must finally die, just like the foolish and senseless, leaving all their wealth behind. We have a responsibility to invest God’s resources wisely. Our investments must not be for selfish ends.*